ANNUAL REPORT
KING FAHD CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES
Academic Year 2002 – 2003

Introduction

As predicted in the annual report for the 2000-2001 academic year, 2002-2003 was a year of budgetary crisis that necessitated a sharp decrease in expenditures to allow the King Fahd Center to retain a budgetary surplus as required by university and college regulations. The two-year decline in the U.S. stock market caused a decline in the King Fahd endowment balance of approximately 30%, falling to a low of less than $19 million, less than the original amount of the endowment in 1993. In terms of center income, this drop in the endowment balance was exacerbated by a reduction in the percentage of the endowment taken as yearly income by the University of Arkansas Foundation, from 5% to 4.9%. Because ongoing commitments to faculty and staff salaries, benefits, and undergraduate and graduate student support were non-negotiable, drastic cuts had to be made in expenditures for center activities, such as visiting speakers, outreach, conferences, and study abroad. No students are being sent in summer 2003 for study abroad, either as participants in Arabic programs, or as participants in the Jordan Archaeological Field School. To create supplementary sources of income for proposed projects, the center is actively engaged in writing proposals for outside grants. A proposal for a Public Administration/Public Policy training program partnering the University of Arkansas and University of Tunis I was submitted to the U.S. Department of State on May 23, 2003, and another proposal is currently being prepared that will provide a training partnership between Tunisian universities and the Walton College of Business. Cost-saving measures instituted in fiscal year 2002-2003 will continue in fiscal year 2003-2004 as detailed below. These savings include a temporary reduction by half of faculty development account balances.

1. Student Affairs

Undergraduates (17 scholarships @ $124,000) In academic year 2003-2004 the King Fahd Center will support 17 undergraduate MEST majors on full or partial scholarships totaling $124,000. This represents a savings of $33,600 compared with last year. In the past two years, MEST has reduced the amount spent on undergraduate support by a total of $86,000. As explained in last year’s report, these savings were achieved by making the requirements for winning and retaining a MEST scholarship more rigorous and by granting fewer full scholarships and more partial scholarships to deserving majors. Because of the unfortunate persistence of abuse on the part of some four-year scholarship recipients, it was decided to eliminate four-year scholarships entirely starting in academic year 2003-2004. In addition, it is clear that some of the best MEST majors are those who declare a MEST interest only after sampling some courses and getting to know the MEST faculty. Students like the variety of courses and interdisciplinary focus that MEST provides for them. Currently, there are 23 MEST double-majors and 4
MEST minors. The average GPA of MEST majors and minors is in excess of 3.5, surely one of the highest average GPAs of any program in the university. The average GPA of a partial scholarship recipient is 3.6. The average GPA of full scholarship recipients is 3.8. These figures compare favorably with the GPAs of the holders of the most prestigious scholarships at the University of Arkansas. Only 3 scholarship recipients currently remain as non-major students. Since non-MEST-majors are no longer eligible for MEST scholarships, these 3 scholarship lines will be phased out next year, upon the graduation of their recipients.

Five scholarship recipients graduated this spring. Scholarship recipient David Hughes was elected to the University of Arkansas chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society. He was also accepted, with full support, to the Middle East Studies MA program at the University of Michigan with the understanding that he would be qualified to advance with funding to the Ph.D. level. Another scholarship recipient, Stephanie Kirkland, was accepted into the Geography MA program at the University of Arkansas and received a MEST graduate assistantship. Graduating scholarhip recipient Meredith Mayes was named a 2003 Razorback Classic for her outstanding leadership and campus involvement. Current scholarship recipient Shane Hughes was one of only two ROTC cadets of the Southwest region to be selected for the prestigious Olmsted Scholar Program. Hughes will travel to Uzbekistan this summer with other ROTC scholarship winners as part of this program.

Unfortunately, it is still the case that MEST scholarships are not adequately publicized by Fulbright College or by the university as a whole. This situation must be rectified so that more students are aware of MEST scholarship opportunities and so that the contribution of MEST students to the overall quality of the University of Arkansas is fully appreciated. As some of the most academically superior students at this university, MEST scholarship recipients deserve much more official recognition than they currently receive. The high academic profile of the MEST program and its students should also be acknowledged and publicized by university and Fulbright College development.

Graduate Students (23 Graduate Assistants @ $227,919) In academic year 2003-2004 the King Fahd Center will fund 18 graduate assistants from the primary MEST account totaling $174,000 plus $5,778 in benefits. The Center will also support five graduate assistants funded by the Arabic Translation account, totaling $46,600 and $1,541 in benefits. The total amount of graduate assistantships and benefits will equal $227,919.

This represents a net savings of $52,097 compared with the 2002-2003 academic year. The net reduction in expenditures for graduate assistantships over the past two years is in excess of $65,000. These savings should continue in the 2004-2005 academic year. MEST funding and supervision policies for graduate assistants now follow the guidelines set by the Graduate School, which allows a maximum of four semesters of funding for students on the MA track and eight semesters of funding for students on the Ph.D. track. As with undergraduate scholarships, requirements for obtaining and retaining assistantships have been made more rigorous and new advising procedures are planned to make sure that graduate students funded by MEST complete their programs in the time allotted. Starting in 2003-2004 MEST will not consider any graduate student for funding whose overall GPA falls below 3.5.
History Ph.D. candidate Michael Bracy won the Hudson Doctoral Award, given by the Graduate School of the University of Arkansas to top graduate students at the dissertation-writing stage. History Ph.D. candidate Farid al-Salim was awarded the Bishai Fellowship by the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) for modern research in Jordan. Farid was also awarded a grant by the Palestinian-American Research Center (PARC) for research in Jordan and the Palestine Authority. History graduate students Charles Argo (MEST-funded) and Nawaf Madkhili (not funded) successfully defended their Masters’ theses this academic year. Four MEST-funded graduate students presented papers at national and international conferences: Lahnuddin Lahnuddin presented a paper at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C.; Michael Bracy presented a paper at an international conference in Toronto; and Charles Argo presented papers at international conferences in Toronto, Canada and Budapest, Hungary.

**Study Abroad.** Because of the current budget crisis, the King Fahd Center was not able to support students for study abroad this academic year. The Archaeological Field School maintained by the University of Arkansas and Yarmuk University in Irbid, Jordan, also did not run because its director, Jerome Rose (ANTH) was on leave as the result of receiving a major grant from the National Science Foundation. The summer Arabic programs and Jordan Field School remain two of the most important long-term commitments maintained by the King Fahd Center as part of its educational mission. The Center expects to be able to provide at least some student scholarships for these programs in the summer of 2004. Next summer, students interested in Arabic study will have a choice of three programs in which to participate on summer scholarships: Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco, SINARC in Lebanon, and the Bourguiba Institute in Tunisia.

**Curriculum.** The MEST curriculum was modified this year with the creation of a gateway course that will be required of all MEST majors declaring in 2003-2004 and beyond. **MEST 2013 “Gateways to the Middle East”** is designed to provide students with fundamental building blocks for understanding the contemporary Middle East and Islamic world. Students will be introduced to a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of the geo-cultural region, including history, politics, arts and literature, religions and cultures, social geography and economics. Associate Professor and center Associate Director Joel Gordon developed this course on the basis of an idea formulated by the Grants and Proposals Committee in 2002.

Another course, **MEST 2003 “Islam in History, Practice, and Experience”** was added to the MEST curriculum this year. Designed as a gateway course to the study of Islam at the University of Arkansas, this course introduces Islam as a global religion and world civilization, and includes study of the Qur’an, the Prophet Muhammad, ritual and community practices, metaphysics, mysticism, art and literature, and sacred and critical history. MEST Research Assistant Professor Hugh T. Halman developed this course. Starting in academic year 2004-2005 we plan for it to be a prerequisite for most upper division courses on Islam.
2. Center Development Activities

The King Fahd Center is now in consultation with Dina Wood, Development Director for Fulbright College, on ways to make up the losses incurred by the present budget crisis. This involves an active program of applying for outside grant funding, as well as exploring new ways of making the center and its activities known throughout the state of Arkansas. In early June 2003 this form of outreach included Professors Vincent and Rkia Cornell attending a reception for the Ambassador of Qatar that was hosted in Little Rock by French Hill, founder and President of Delta Trust Bank. Attendees at the reception and/or follow-up dinner included Ambassador of Qatar Bader Omar I. Al-Dafa, Mr. Rashid Al-Khater, Counselor to the Ambassador, Charlotte and Jim Gadbury (she is President of Rotary Club), Karen and Jerry Fetzer (she is the Executive Rotary Director), Jim Dailey, Mayor of Little Rock, Ben Hussman (her husband, Walter, is the owner and Pres. of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette), Jane and Jay Rogers (she is the head of the Delta Trust & Bank Women’s Advisory Council), Honorable David Pryor, U.S. Senator (retired) and his wife Barbara, Cathy Taylor and John Sloan, Architect for Wittenberg Firm, Kathleen and Bobby Brown, Syair Designs LLC, Claiborne Demming, CEO Murphy Oil (El Dorado, AR), David and Ellen Alsobrook (he is the Director of the Clinton Presidential Project), Martha and French Hill (CEO of Delta Trust), Ashley and Haskell Dickinson (Delta Trust and Granite Mountain Quarries/McGeorge Contracting). The center will continue to work with Dina Wood to explore fund-raising possibilities with some of these individuals for either the College or the center.

At the ensuing dinner in Little Rock, the Ambassador of Qatar informed Dr. Cornell that the state of Qatar will be offering 60 scholarships for up to two years of Arabic study in Qatar for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. He expressed a great interest in the King Fahd Center and program and encouraged University of Arkansas students to apply for these scholarships.

In academic year 2002-2003 the center also took the lead in preparing two proposals for project funding from the U.S. Department of State. The center was notified directly by State about these grant lines, which were offered specifically for Tunisia. Both proposals received the enthusiastic support of Phillip Breeden, Public Affairs Officer of the US Embassy in Tunisia, and Dr. James Miller, new director of CEMAT (Centre des Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis). The University will be notified of the status of these proposals in September 2003.

1. “Development of Graduate Programs in Public Administration and Public Policy for the University of Tunis I” with the Political Science Department PI: Vincent J. Cornell, Director of King Fahd Center Co-PI: Todd Shields, Chair of Political Science.

2. “Development of Strategic Partnership for the Development and Delivery of Executive Education Programs and Undergraduate Core Curriculum Revisions for the Central University (Université du Centre) of Tunis at Sousse” with the Walton School of Business PI: Joseph Ziegler, Chair of Economics and Director
3. The MEST Core Faculty

The core faculty of the King Fahd Program will remain the same as in academic year 2002-2003:

1. Jacob Adler (Associate Professor of Philosophy) Judaic Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Languages (Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic)

2. Lynda L. Coon (Associate Professor of History) Early Christianity in the Arab world and Mediterranean basin, Late Roman Empire, sainthood in late antiquity, gender and sexuality

3. Rkia E. Cornell (Research Associate Professor of Arabic Studies) Arabic language pedagogy, Quranic studies, women in Islam, linguistic and cultural aspects of Berber nativism

4. Vincent J. Cornell (Professor of History and Director of the King Fahd Center) Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, history of Islam in North Africa and Iberian peninsula, Islamic Mediterranean and Middle East, Islamic theology and philosophy, Sufism, Islamic law, Islamic modernism in Middle East and Southeast Asia

5. JoAnn D’Alisera (Assistant Professor of Anthropology) Islam in Africa, Anthropology of Religion, Muslim transnational communities

6. Mounir Farah (Professor of Education) Curriculum and development, diplomatic history of the modern Middle East

7. Najib Ghadbian (Assistant Professor of Political Science) Politics of the Arab world, Islamic movements, international politics of the Arabian Gulf

8. Joel Gordon (Associate Professor of History and Associate Director of the King Fahd Center) Modern Middle East, Egypt in the Nasser era, popular culture, Middle East media studies.

9. Hugh T. Halman (MEST Research Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Islam) Religious Studies, Islam, Comparative Religions, Asian Religions

10. Adnan Haydar (Professor of Arabic) Arabic language pedagogy, comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, oral poetics

11. Mohja Kahf (Associate Professor of English) Comparative literature, modern Arabic literature, women’s studies, orientalism
11. Thomas Paradise (Professor of Geosciences and Associate Director of the King Fahd Center) Geomorphology, cultural geography, human impact on cultural resources, weathering of architectural monuments, geography of Middle East, geological and geographical studies of Jordan and Morocco

13. Margaret Reid (Associate Professor of Political Science) Director of the Middle East Public Administration graduate program

14. Jerome Rose (Professor of Anthropology) Biological Anthropology, bio-archaeology, forensic anthropology, archaeology of Jordan and Egypt

15. Ted Swedenburg (Professor of Anthropology) Cultural anthropology of the Middle East, social and critical theory

16. William F. Tucker (Associate Professor of History) Medieval Middle Eastern history, Shiite Islam, ecological and environmental history of the Islamic world, socioeconomic history of the pre-modern Mediterranean

17. Rembrandt Wolpert (Professor of Music and Director of the Center for the Ethnomusicology of Asian and Middle Eastern Music) Chinese and Silk Road musical traditions

In academic year 2002-2003, Assistant Professor Mohamed Bounajma of Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, held a visiting appointment in the King Fahd Center. He assisted the Arabic program by teaching courses in Elementary and Intermediate Arabic. He was very popular with his students and received strong Purdue scores.

In spring 2003 Associate Professor Sergey Grigoriev of the Oriental Studies faculty at St. Petersburg State University in Russia came to the University of Arkansas on an IREX faculty exchange and taught a course on modern Afghanistan for the History department.

In 2002-2003, Assistant Professor Saida Bennani of Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco, completed her research project on "Communicating Islam in America." She is supported by MEST as part of the agreement between the University of Arkansas and the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education. She was granted a one-semester extension by her university and MEST to complete the writing of her dissertation in the peace and quiet of Fayetteville. She will return to her teaching duties in Morocco in January 2004.

Faculty Grants and Major Publications


These and other MEST faculty members published or had accepted for publication articles in leading journals in Middle East Studies or their respective disciplines. They also delivered papers and participated in major international conferences and workshops, and served on the editorial boards of leading journals and the governing boards of leading scholarly organizations.

**Faculty Development Support**

MEST continues to support faculty development. Because of the budget crisis, faculty development accounts for 2003-2004 will be reduced to $2,000. Chairs of committees with heavy time commitments, such as the center Director, the chairs of Outreach, Grants and Proposals, and Publications and Translation Award, may receive a supplementary increase in their development accounts commensurate with the extra time commitments necessary to carry out their duties. These supplements will range from $500 to $1,000. In addition, faculty members may apply to the MEST office for supplements to fund papers at international conferences, depending on availability of funds.

**Faculty Committees**

As part of their participation in the program, MEST core faculty members will be assigned to serve on at least one committee apiece. Committee assignments will be redistributed in August for academic year 2003-2004. Last year’s committee assignments were as follows:

1. **Executive Committee**: V. Cornell, Gordon, Associate Dean C. Adams
2. **Grants and Proposals**: Paradise (chair), R. Cornell, Swedenburg, Halman, Gordon, V. Cornell
3. **Publications and Translation Award**: Gordon (chair), Kahf, Swedenburg, Larry Malley (Director of UA Press), V. Cornell
4. **Outreach**: Ghadbian (chair), Gordon, Swedenburg, Paradise, Reid, V. Cornell
5. **Arabic**: V. Cornell (chair), R. Cornell, Gordon, Haydar, Kay Pritchett (Chair of Foreign Languages), Steve Bell (FLAN Associate Chair)
6. **Undergraduate Awards**: V. Cornell (chair), R. Cornell, Haydar, Paradise
7. **Graduate Awards**: V. Cornell (chair), Gordon, Swedenburg, Ghadbian, Farah
8. **Web Site and Publicity**: Paradise (chair), R. Cornell, Halman, Kelley O’Callaghan (part-time Program Assistant).

**Faculty Advising**

MEST faculty members are assigned as advisers to MEST majors. If possible, faculty members are assigned students who have second majors in their departments or in related fields. For example, History majors are assigned to MEST faculty in History,
Anthropology majors to MEST anthropologists, etc. At present, each faculty member advises approximately four MEST majors. They are to meet with their advisees each semester to ensure adequate progress through the major and to help the students devise a coherent course of study. Tracking sheets are now available to help keep the MEST office informed of advising decisions.

4. Visiting Speakers and Special Events


2. September 20, 2002 — “Muslim Women in Egypt,” Afaf Marsot, UCLA, Keynote lecture for Mid-America History Conference, sponsored by MEST.

3. October 4-6, 2002 — Annual meeting of Muslim Networks Consortium, Duke University. MEST is an institutional member of this consortium. Professors Vincent Cornell and Rkia Cornell represented the University of Arkansas at this meeting.

4. October 24, 2002 — Visit by former Prime Ministers Ehud Barak of Israel and Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan. Invited by the University Distinguished Lectures Committee, MEST organized a question-and-answer session for the two prime ministers in Giffels auditorium that was attended by majors in Middle East Studies, International Relations, Political Science, and International Law. Vincent Cornell, director of the King Fahd Center, moderated the session.

5. October 30, 2002 — “Jihad in Islam” seminar organized by Al-Islam Students Association. Professor Vincent Cornell and Hugh T. Halman were highlighted speakers at this event.


11. February 27, 2003 — Arabic Film Series, “100% Arabica.”


17. April 9, 2003 — Arabic Table, “Beirut to Sinai,” Tom Paradise, University of Arkansas.

18. April 17, 2003 — “What is the Difference Between a Language and a Dialect?” Kristen Brustad, Emory University (co-sponsored by Department of Foreign Languages).


21. April 23, 2003 — “Post-War Iraq,” sponsored by the Leflar Law Society. Professors Vincent Cornell and Najib Ghadbian were highlighted speakers at this event.

Second Annual University of Arkansas Arabic Speech Contest, April 18, 2003

The Arabic speech contest, organized by Prof. Rkia E. Cornell with the assistance of Kelley O’Callaghan, was held at the Leflar Law Center in conjunction with a Japanese speech contest held in another room at the same time. Approximately 200 people attended this event. Drama Professor Terry Brustar and her students gave an interpretive dance performance entitled “The Four Cantos in Eternal Time,” based on the “Poem of the Two Loves” by Rabi’a al-‘Adawiyya (d. 801), the famous woman saint of Basra in Iraq. Monetary prizes were given for the best presentations. In 2004 the speech contest will be held in conjunction with lectures to be given by Dr. Miriam Cooke of Duke University and Dr. Sherman Jackson of the University of Michigan. Dr. Cooke will speak on the topic of “Women and War” and Dr. Jackson will speak on the subject of Islamic law at the Law School.

5. Arkansas Arabic Translation Award.

This year’s winner, announced in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in Washington D.C., was Yasmeen Hanoosh for her translation of Scattered Crumbs (al-Fatat al-Muba’thar) by the Iraqi writer Muhsin al-Ramli. Al-Ramli was born in a northern Iraqi village in 1967. He began writing fiction in his teens. After his brother was murdered in 1990, Ramli left Iraq. In 1995 he settled in Spain, where he
co-edits an Arabic literary journal and runs a publishing house. He has published two
collections of short stories, three plays, the prize-winning novella, and several
translations from Arabic to Spanish. He is currently writing a dissertation on Arab-
Islamic influences on the Spanish novel.

Ms Hanoosh, who is also Iraqi-born, is currently a Ph.D. student in Arabic Literature at
the University of Michigan. She describes Scattered Crumbs, which was published in
Cairo in the late 1990s, as semi-autobiographical and set in an unnamed village during
the Iran-Iraq war. “The plot centers on an impoverished peasant family that struggles
with the dilemmas and agonies to totalitarian dictatorship and war. The subtle sarcasm of
the novella walks us through the processes of deterioration undergone both by the social,
political and economic structures of the country, and by the individual characters caught
up in the maelstrom.”

This translation is currently in press with University of Arkansas Press.

The Arkansas Translation Award carries a $5,000 award for the translator, with an
additional $5,000 also awarded, as in this case, to a living author. Submissions are
solicited for significant works of 19th-20th Century Arabic literature, broadly defined to
include fiction, non-fiction works in the literary tradition, and academic works of note.

6. King Fahd Center/Arabic Program Newsletter.

The second issue of the newsletter appeared in fall 2002 and can be found, along with the
first issue, on the King Fahd Center web site, which is currently being developed. A third
issue of the newsletter is in production, and should appear in August 2003.

7. King Fahd Center Institutional Memberships

American Institute of Maghrib Studies
American Research Center in Egypt
Middle East Institute
Middle East Outreach Council
Middle East Studies Association
Muslim Networks Consortium
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)
Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar

10. Outreach.
Outreach remains a keystone of the King Fahd program. Interest in the peoples, cultures, and politics of the Middle East and Islamic world has intensified in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, and the lead-up to and onset of war in Iraq has only added to that. MEST faculty and students have been extremely active with regard to sharing their expertise over the course of the last academic year.

MEST faculty has continued to maintain strong media relations at the local, national, and international level. Core faculty members gave numerous interviews for local TV network affiliates and newspapers, and have been called upon by national services (Najib Ghadbian was interviewed for the Toronto Star and two NPR-syndicated programs; Joel Gordon appeared in a Discovery News Channel documentary), as well as international radio and satellite television services (Ghadbian has become a regular analyst for Al-Jazeera and has appeared on Lebanon’s NBN, and the Arabic BBC and Monte Carlo radio world services).

MEST faculty also remains active in speaking in public and private community forums. Professors Ghadbian, Gordon, and Swedenburg organized a faculty forum immediately upon outbreak of the war in Iraq. Swedenburg joined other university faculty in an earlier forum sponsored by the Omni Peace Center. And Ghadbian and Vincent Cornell shared the podium with faculty colleagues in a forum hosted by the Law School that included a member of the Scottish Parliament. Hugh Halman has spoken frequently throughout Northwest Arkansas on Islamic theology and religious practice to student, church and inter-faith groups. As in the aftermath of 9/11, MEST students also continue to provide great service through their willingness to speak to community and campus groups and to share their experiences after having studied-lived and/or grown up in the region.

Outreach activities have taken MEST faculty outside Northwest Arkansas. For example, Najib Ghadbian spoke to Law students at UALR on Iraqi politics. Ted Swedenburg conducted a session on North African and Arab-European popular music to a workshop for pre-college teachers organized by the Middle East Center at NYU. Vincent and Rkia Cornell attended a conference at Duke University sponsored by the US Department of Education that addressed “Global Challenges and US Higher Education.” Vince Cornell also participated in a number of international forums and workshops related to ecumenical religious understanding and conflict resolution. In this country he addressed the Council on Islamic Education (Newport Beach, CA); in Jerusalem he participated in a workshop sponsored by the Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions and lectured at the Konrad Adenauer Conference Center; in Doha, Qatar, he delivered a keynote lecture for the second “Building Bridges: Overcoming Obstacles in Christian-Muslim Relations” seminar convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Cornell also attended a planning session in Durham, UK, for an upcoming “Meeting of World Religious Leaders” to be held in Seville, Spain in December 2003.

MEST faculty, in addition to pursuing their ongoing research agendas, also continue to devote scholarly energies to print, on-line publications, and web-sites, including encyclopedias, map projects, and other instructional media designed to reach a broad
audience. Two faculty members, Swedenburg and Halman, still take to local airwaves with their KXUA radio shows on world beat and devotional music.

As in previous years, University of Arkansas students represented the University and Center with distinction through their participation in the Model Arab League, sponsored and subsidized by the King Fahd Center. For the past two years Najib Ghadbian has taken a delegation to the national meeting in Washington, DC. This year the Arkansas delegation of 6 students represented Qatar. One student, Yara Youssef (Political Science), was named best delegate in the Arab Court of Justice. For 2004, the National Commission has invited Arkansas to represent Egypt, an invite that should be taken as recognition of the students’ fine contribution and training.

11. Library Development

Because the current budget crisis threatened to push the MEST budget in the red, MEST was forced to halt the purchase of books for Mullins Library in spring 2003. In fall 2002, it was decided to apportion book orders among the MEST faculty equally. Each core faculty member was authorized to send to the MEST office requests for books for the library totaling up to $800. The same policy will be followed in fiscal year 2003-2004, with the same $25,000 limit on all library purchases as in the previous year. Because of the recent upturn in the stock market, it is hoped that it will not be necessary to suspend purchases again.

After July 1, 2003 MEST will pay the final $35,000 installment for the Kenneth Brown Collection. This collection has been received by Mullins Library and is currently in the process of being cataloged and shelved. A special web site has been set up by the staff of Mullins Library to identify the works in this collection and to make it easier for students to locate them. MEST plans to invite Professor Kenneth Brown to the University of Arkansas in spring 2004 for the formal dedication of this collection.